

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 XMB-04 /022 R

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XMB:CNORRIS
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R 130243Z MAY 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO USDOC

UNCLAS STATE 117028

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP SY
SUBJ: SALINAS

REF: DAMASCUS 2689

1. UNABLE TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE THAT SALINAS HAS EVEN TALKED WITH ANYONE AT EXIM. CERTAINLY NO COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO SUPPORT TRANSACTIONS MENTIONED REFTEL.

2. SOME WEEKS AGO, SECURITY PACIFIC NATIONAL BANK, LOS ANGELES, CALLED MORAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF EXIMBANK GUARANTEE TO COVER LEASE OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TO SYRIAN LESSEE. NO NAMES WERE MENTIONED BY SECURITY PACIFIC AT THAT TIME, BUT CHECKING BACK WITH SECURITY PACIFIC, WE FIND THAT THE CALCO TRANSACTION MENTIONED REFTEL WAS THE TRANSACTION THEY HAD IN MIND. CALCO IS A CUSTOMER OF FRESNO BRANCH OF SECURITY PACIFIC, BUT THEY DO NOT KNOW SALINAS. CALCO IS A SMALL LEASING COMPANY AND HAS APPARENTLY NOT DONE ANY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS. ACCORDING TO SECURITY PACIFIC, SALINAS APPARENTLY MET WITH MEMBERS OF A SYRIAN TRADE MISSION OR WITH A GROUP OF SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE IN TEXAS. REPORTEDLY, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT SYRIA LEASE (NOT BUY) THE EQUIPMENT. THIS IS EXTENT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE

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ON THIS SUBJECT. WE DO KNOW FABICK TRACTOR.

3. WE HAVE NOT MADE SYRIA ELIGIBLE FOR SHORT/MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMS, BUT SUBJECT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. WILL ADVISE.

4. FYI ALL FUTURE LEASE TRANSACTIONS WILL BE HANDLED BY FCIA; THEREFORE, CONTACT WITH THEM SHOULD BE MADE BY EXPORTER OR HIS BANKER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE117028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760184-0315
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760558/aaaabxfu.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 2689
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALINAS
TAGS: BEXP, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006